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Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 on arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations, organizations in consultative status in general and special categories shall submit to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations every fourth year, through the Secretary-General, a brief report of their activities, specifically as regards the support they have given to the work of the United Nations.

2. The material issued in the present series of documents (E/C.2/1999/2 and addenda) has been reproduced as submitted, and therefore reflects the policies and terminology of the organizations concerned. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the United Nations Secretariat concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

3. Supplementary material, such as annual reports and samples of publications, is available in the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

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1. International Association for Water Law (IAWL)

(Special consultative status granted 1971)

The International Association for Water Law (AIDA) has the objective, as expressed in its statute of 30 May 1967, on the occasion of the Water for Peace Conference, to carry out studies and to foster publications for the exchange and diffusion of opinions and information tending to (a) advance the science of water law, and (b) develop national and international water legislation and administrations.

AIDA membership includes "full" members, i.e., lawyers with a specialization in water law; "associate" members, i.e., non-lawyers (engineers, geologists, agronomists, hydrologists, meteorologists or others) who are directly or indirectly involved with the legal and institutional aspects of water resources management; and "institutional" members, i.e., organizations or institutions. Admission to membership is granted by the Executive Council of the Association; at present, there are about 350 members from 80 different countries. National branches have been established in Argentina, Colombia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Mexico, Spain and Venezuela.

During this period, four numbers of *Aquaforum*, the newsletter of the Association, were issued.

An international regional conference organized by the Italian branch of AIDA took place in Rome on 15 and 16 March 1994, on the theme: "Symposium on water law and administration: present state and pointers for the future".

A seminar on water technology and legislation for Ibero-American countries was held at Alicante, Spain, from 15 to 17 December 1994, organized jointly by the Spanish branch of AIDA and the Water and Environmental Science Institute of the University of Alicante.

Participation in activities, meetings and conferences within the United Nations system

AIDA participated in:

(a) Twenty-fifth session of ECLAC, held at Cartagena, Colombia, 20–22 September 1994;

(b) International symposium on regional infrastructure for the Mekong Basin Area, organized by the United Nations University and the GIF Research Foundation of Japan, 1 and 2 December 1994;

(c) Meeting of the United Nations special working group on shared water resources, New York, 14 and 15 May 1996;

(d) An expert group meeting on water legislation in the ESCWA region, Amman, 24–26 November 1996.

Cooperation with United Nations and specialized agencies

AIDA participated in:

(a) One hundred and seventh session of the FAO Council, Rome, 15–24 November 1994;

(b) One hundred and ninth session of the FAO Council, Rome, 18 and 19 October 1995;

(c) Twenty-eighth session of the FAO Conference, Rome, 10–31 October 1995;

(d) Twenty-third Regional Conference for the Near East, Rabat, 26–30 March 1996;

(e) One hundred and eleventh session of the FAO Council, Rome, 1–10 October 1996;

(f) One hundred and thirtieth session of the FAO Council, Rome, 4–6 November 1997;

(g) World Food Summit, Rome, 13–17 November 1996;

(h) Twenty-ninth session of the FAO Conference, Rome, 7–18 November 1997;

(i) Twenty-ninth session of the UNESCO General Conference, Paris, 21 October–18 November 1997;

(j) High-level group on international water management in the 21st Century, organized by UNESCO, Valencia, Spain, 18–20 December 1997.

Other relevant activities

AIDA was represented in the following activities:

(a) Seminar on fresh water resources protection and management in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe, organized by the Council of Europe, Bucharest, 12–14 March 1994;

(b) Third International Conference on the Peaceful Management of Trans-Boundary Resources, University of Durham, United Kingdom, 14–17 April 1994;

(c) International Network of Basin Agencies: many meetings organized by the French Government since May 1994;

(d) International conference on water in Europe organized by the Club de Bruxelles, with the support of the European Commission, Brussels, 22 and 23 November 1995;

(e) Sixth International Conference of the Israeli Society for Ecology and Environment, Jerusalem, 30 June–4 July 1996;

(f) International conference on water policy, sponsored by AIDA and the School of Agriculture of Cranefield University, Silsoe College, United Kingdom, 22–24 September 1996;

(g) Mediterranean conference on water management, organized by the French Office for Water, 25 and 26 November 1996;

(h) International conference on water in the Mediterranean, Marseille, 19–22 November 1997;

(i) International conference on water in the Mediterranean, convened by the Research Institute for Water Economy of the Italian National Research Council, Naples, 4 and 5 December 1997.

Cooperation with other non-governmental organizations

AIDA cooperated with the International Law Association Water Resources Committee for meetings at Buenos Aires in August 1994, at Jerusalem in March 1995, at Helsinki in 1996, in Rome in 1997 and at Rotterdam in 1998.

Contacts were also maintained with the following:

(a) French office pour l'eau: AIDA has concluded an agreement whereby AIDA may use the facilities of the Office newsletter for announcements;

(b) European Council of Environmental Law;

(c) International Council of Environmental Law;

(d) European Environmental Law Association.

AIDA has continued to provide the names of various experts on water law to institutions, such as the World Bank, the United Nations, FAO, the Asian Development Bank and UNDP.

2. International Bar Association

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction

The aims and purposes of the International Bar Association (IBA) are, *inter alia*, to advance the science of jurisprudence in all its phases, to promote uniformity and definition in appropriate fields of law, to promote the administration of justice under the rule of law among the peoples of the world and to assist members of the legal profession in improving their legal services to the public, and in the execution of these objects IBA shall promote the principles and aims of the United Nations in their legal aspects, and shall cooperate with and promote coordination among international juridical organizations having similar purposes (IBA constitution, article 1).

IBA is now a federation of 174 bar associations and law societies, themselves representing over 2.5 million lawyers, and over 18,000 individual members drawn from 183 countries. There have been no substantial changes in sources of funding.

Activities

IBA participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies is coordinated by the IBA United Nations and World Organizations Committee.

There has been extensive cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies. Attendances and participations in meetings are too numerous to list. Reference is therefore made to the report of IBA on the implementation of the United Nations Decade of International Law programme third term (1995–1996), authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989 (report dated 10 June 1996); to the forthcoming interim report on the final term (covering 1997); and to the report of IBA on the implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education and public information activities in the field of human rights, authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/104 of 12 December 1996 (report dated 29 August 1997).

On 5 December 1995, IBA founded its Human Rights Institute, with South African President Nelson Mandela as its Honorary President. It currently has a membership of over 9,000 individual lawyers drawn from 149 countries. Seminars have been held at Manila (1994), Kampala (1995), Mexico City, Berlin and Colombo (1996), and Buenos Aires, New York, Kathmandu and New Delhi (1998). Work is

proceeding on a training manual for judges and lawyers. HRI has published a study entitled "Human rights and the administration of justice" combining global materials. Meetings have been held with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights reviewing cooperation procedures.

In June 1995, the IBA Council passed a resolution calling for the establishment of an International Criminal Court. The Secretary-General took this as a centrepiece in opening IBA's fiftieth anniversary celebration conference in New York in June 1997, partly held in the United Nations building. The proceedings of this important international conference have been edited and published by Fordham University.

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, IBA published in 1997 *Global Law in Practice*, a series of essays on international law, with a foreword by the Secretary-General, a chapter on the rule of law by President Mandela, and a chapter on the role of the lawyer in shaping the United Nations, particularly as regards human rights, peacekeeping, environmental protection and international trade.

IBA had many projects with UNCITRAL during 1994–1997. These concerned, *inter alia*, standby letters of credit, the UNCITRAL model law on international credit transfers, the UNCITRAL model law on procurement of goods, construction and services, and the UNCITRAL model law on electronic commerce. The IBA Council, meeting in Madrid on 1 June 1996, adopted the IBA Cross-Border Insolvency Concordat, which provided the model for the UNCITRAL model law on cross-border insolvency. IBA representatives have helped to prepare the guide to its enactment.

IBA representatives have attended a number of meetings organized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Discussions have been held with representatives of UNDCP on collaboration with IBA.

IBA is planning to hold a joint workshop with UNICEF at Vancouver in September 1998 concerning the Convention on the Rights of the Child and a draft protocol.

Throughout 1994–1997, IBA's General Professional Programme Committee has held seminars for bar presidents and bar association officials to review matters of professional interest and give updates on United Nations affairs.

3. International Catholic Child Bureau

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

Introduction

The Bureau International Catholique de l'Enfance (BICE), known in English as the International Catholic Child Bureau, was founded in 1948 to serve the holistic growth of all children in a Christian perspective. It gives particular attention to the most deprived, especially disabled children, child victims of the street, drugs, war, conflict with the law and the sex trade. BICE constitutes a network of consultation for research and action, and collaborates with those who work for the dignity and the best interests of the child: individuals, associations, universities, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations. It has consultative status with UNICEF, UNESCO, the Economic and Social Council and the Council of Europe.

In 1995, BICE opened a branch office in Germany under the name of Zukunft für Kinder in Not. This branch, responsible for Africa, has developed projects in five new countries — Senegal, Mali, Guinea, Republic of Congo and Togo, which enabled BICE to collect important amounts of funding from different entities, such as the European Community, for these projects.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings: oral and/or written statements

BICE has participated regularly at meetings of the Commission for Human Rights, where it has made interventions on children's rights issues, and attended as an observer at meetings of the Committee on the Rights of the Child. It has participated in meetings of the working groups preparing protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. BICE's permanent representative at Vienna organized the opening forum for the International Year of the Family, with the collaboration of the IYF secretariat.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

UNICEF: BICE has attended meetings of the UNICEF Executive Board, and on occasion has presented a written statement.

UNESCO: BICE has developed strong cooperation with UNICEF and UNESCO on main programmes of mutual

interest in the field of children's rights and the right to education, as well as street children.

Other relevant activities

International Year of the Family 1994

BICE has among the key catalysts and promoters at the origin and forefront of helping to make the International Year of the Family of long-term benefit for families and children. BICE's representative at Vienna is a founding Board member and current Chairman of the Vienna NGO Committee on the Family established in 1985, which aims to be an open platform of concerned NGOs for a positive, proactive and global promotion of the family as the "basic unit of society".

1996 World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

This Congress has galvanized support to NGO actions, and has reinforced international mobilization on the theme through a series of regional consultations. BICE, as one of two NGO representatives on the official Planning Committee, was at the heart of the action to ensure that the issue was treated appropriately — not in a sensational way — and that experienced NGOs, be they large or small, are able to participate in the Congress. Follow-up is through existing United Nations mechanisms.

Central and Eastern Europe

By mid-1994, all 26 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, but despite this, the proportion of families living in poverty has increased by as much as 50 per cent in many countries, and a study monitored by UNICEF covering such factors as income, life expectancy, mortality, health and education shows a deterioration in conditions in 16 countries over the last five years. The areas of particular concern to BICE are the sexual exploitation of children, handicapped or disabled children, and children in prison and street children, a phenomenon which was virtually unknown until a few years ago. A pilot project was completed in 1996 following the development of contacts with local professionals and authorities.

NGO/UNICEF Committee for Children in Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS and Baltic States

BICE's Secretary General assumed the Presidency of this NGO Committee on UNICEF, based at Geneva, for four years before resigning in 1997, while remaining on the Board as Treasurer. During this term of office, the Committee implemented several projects, in particular one enabling the evaluation of the situation in eight countries regarding the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, especially concerning children with disabilities and drug-addicted children. As a result of regional meetings held in the Baltic States, several publications were produced (see below).

Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children

BICE has provided information to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children on issues related to his/her mandate during this period.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies etc.

UNICEF: Funding was received from UNICEF to create a parents association in Moscow following the development of a three-year project on the theme "Support to families of children with disabilities", run in collaboration with the Moscow Center for Curative Pedagogics, which generated lectures and training.

The project "Alternatives to imprisonment for teenagers in conflict with the law in Estonia" was funded by UNICEF following a project proposal in November.

Cooperation with UNICEF: 1997 grant of US$ 50,000 to promote resilience.

UNESCO: BICE's cooperation with UNESCO in the field of street and working children has highlighted the need to develop innovative educational programmes for these children, who have often only benefited from two or three years in school. A joint study "Working with street children", which appeared in English, French and Spanish, publicized some well-known educational approaches to this population of children. Following its publication, African NGOs in French-speaking Africa met under the auspices of BICE and UNESCO at Lomé in November 1995 to discuss how to enhance non-formal education for these children. Plans to develop a training cell of trainers in the region are under way to support local efforts to meet the educational needs of street and working children.

Cooperation with UNESCO: grant for education in Africa in 1997.

UNDCP: US$ 14,000 for a project in India in 1997 to develop a preventive and recovery project for drug-addicted street and working children.

Publications (1994–1997)

Each of the following publications implements the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and is directly linked to the work of BICE:

"What policies for children in southern Europe?", 1994 (English and Spanish)

"Children and youth in conflict with the law", 1994 (English and Russian)

"Liberar la esperanza: niñas y niños privados de libertad en América del Sur", 1994 (Spanish only)

"Resilience: growth in the middle of life"

"Listening for health", 1997 (English only)

"The psychological well-being of refugee children", new edition

"Support to families of children with disabilities in Central and Eastern Europe"

"Don't give up on me! Children and prostitution", 1996 (English and French)

"Study for Stockholm: right to happiness"

"Au Rwanda, les enfants de la rue: histoires vécues", 1993 (French only)

"Children: the invisible soldiers", 1996 (English only)

"Family: rights and responsibilities: review of principal international texts", 1994 (English, French and Spanish)

"Aperçu sur la famille africaine", 1994 (French only)

"New beginnings: a guide to designing parenting programs for refugee and immigrant parents", 1994

"Building on the strengths of children: their families and communities", 1994

"Familles: des enfants vous parlent", 1994 (French only)

1994 International Year of The Family: The Family and Child Resilience

ICCB and children's rights, annual report 1995–96

BICE annual report 1996/97

BICE members in 54 countries, 1997

Asia and the Pacific	OM	IM	AM	*Latin America*	OM	IM	AM	*Europe*	OM	IM	AM	*Africa*	OM	IM	AM	*North America*	OM	IM	AM	*Middle East*	OM	IM	AM
Non-OECD				*Non-OECD*				*Non-OECD*				*Non-OECD*								*Non-OECD*			
Philippines	1	2	1	Argentina	8	5	1	Poland	2			Democratic Republic of the Congo			1					Egypt			1
China — Hong Kong SAR	1			Colombia		2	1	Monaco	1											Syrian Arab Republic		1	
				Chile	5		1	Hungary		1													
India	3	2		Brazil	2		1	Yugoslavia		1		Côte d'Ivoire	3										
Macao	1			Peru	1			Malta	1			Sierra Leone	1										
Sri Lanka	1			Bolivia	1							Chad	1										
Thailand		1		Honduras		1						Gambia	1										
				Haiti		2						Zambia	1	1									
				Neth. Antil.		1						Togo	2										
												Rwanda	1	1									
OECD				*OECD*				*OECD*				Nigeria		2									
Australia	1			Mexico	3			France	22	14	3	Benin		2		*OECD*							
								Belgium	6	9	4	Gabon		1		United States	6	5					
								Switzerland	7	6	1	United Republic of Tanzania		1		Canada		4					
								Italy	13	7	6												
								Spain	3	4	1	Congo		2									
								Germany	4	2	1	Kenya		2									
								Netherlands	1		1	Mauritius	2										
								Luxembourg	1			Madagascar		1									
								Austria	3	1													
								Greece	2	3													
								United Kingdom	7	3													
								Portugal	6	1													
								Ireland	2														
Total	**8**	**5**	**1**		**20**	**11**	**4**		**81**	**52**	**17**		**12**	**13**	**1**		**6**	**9**	**0**		**0**	**1**	**1**

Abbreviations
OM = Associate members (total: 127)
IM = Individual members (total: 91)
AM = Active members (total: 24)
Total members of BICE: 242

4. International Catholic Migration Commission

(Special consultative status granted 1952)

The International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) is an operational arm of the Catholic Church. Since 1951, it has been serving refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and returnees, regardless of creed. Its assistance is driven by a belief in the sanctity of the individual and family, and the compelling need to safeguard and promote the human rights and dignity of all uprooted persons.

Headquartered at Geneva, ICMC helps people forced to move by influencing national and international policy on their behalf and through programmes that reach them directly. Global in operation, ICMC works through subsidiary offices in 10 countries, three regional liaison offices and a network of local affiliates at the grass-roots and national levels in 70 countries.

Besides holding consultative status with the Council, ICMC is affiliated to several NGO umbrella organizations that also have consultative status, including the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, the Conference of NGOs in consultative status with the Council; the Latin America Information Centre on Migration; the Conference of International Catholic Organisations; the International Council on Social Welfare, the NGO Committee on UNICEF, and INTERACTION.

During its 40-year history in the field of refugee work, ICMC has undertaken a broad range of activities on behalf of voluntary and forced migrants, including emergency relief, resettlement processing, counselling, training, and socio-economic integration and rehabilitation assistance. During the period under review, ICMC programmes were operational in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Viet Nam, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China. ICMC national partners and programme offices in Europe collaborate to assist refugees in gaining resettlement in Australia, Canada and the United States of America. The period marked increased collaboration between ICMC and several Council agencies, particularly those that extended funding for its actions in favour of persons uprooted or forced into flight because of war and conflict, racial or ethnic persecution, human rights violations, and environmental degradation. The ICMC programmes supported by Council agencies included:

(a) UNHCR funded educational and community services for Tuareg and Moor refugees in Mali; interpreters support for the refugee status determination process of Indochinese refugees; a community centre for vulnerable Bosnian refugees in Turkey; a socio-economic self-sufficiency programme for urban refugees in Zimbabwe; and micro-credit programmes for women in Bosnia;

(b) The Department of Humanitarian Affairs supported the rehabilitation and construction of schools in Mozambique;

(c) UNESCO and UNDP supported a functional literacy programme for demobilized soldiers in Cambodia;

(d) UNICEF funded a safe house for street children and homeless women in Cambodia;

(e) World Bank supported a programme for employment counselling and job placement for demobilized soldiers in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the implementation of these and other programmes, ICMC maintained active contact both with the headquarters of donor Council agencies and with offices in the field. Furthermore, functioning as an intermediary between ICMC national partners and United Nations humanitarian agencies based at Geneva remained a major aspect of the work of the ICMC secretariat.

To promote awareness of the relationship between migration and refugee displacement and the defence of human rights, and how these two issues are directly linked to questions of economic, social and human development, ICMC participated in various conferences organized by the United Nations. Among the most notable of these meetings for the work of ICMC and challenges it faced were:

(a) **1995–1996 session of the Commission on Human Rights** (Geneva), during which representatives joined the NGO caucus that successfully advocated for special attention to be given to internally displaced persons;

(b) **UNHCR/PARINAC global conference** (June 1994, Oslo), at which ICMC spoke on the question of enhancing southern NGO capabilities to respond to emergencies;

(c) **World Summit for Social Development** (March 1995, Copenhagen), at which ICMC concentrated on the eradication of poverty and human centred development as a means to resolving some of the causes of voluntary and forced migration;

(d) **Commission on the Advancement of the Status of Women** (March 1995, New York), at which ICMC coordinated NGO efforts to have the special needs of

refugee, displaced and migrant women underscored in the draft Beijing Platform of Action;

(e) **UNHCR Comprehensive Plan of Action Steering Committee meeting** (March 1995, Geneva), at which ICMC advocated for socio-economic reintegration programmes for Indochinese refugees to be returned to Viet Nam;

(f) **Council substantive session** (June 1995, Geneva), during which ICMC concentrated on agenda items relating to the rights of minorities and migrants;

(g) **Fourth World Conference on Women** (September 1995, Beijing) at which the ICMC representative was on the NGO facilitating committee and also coordinator of the refugee women's caucus;

(h) **United Nations conference on the Commonwealth of Independent States** (May 1996, Geneva), during which ICMC joined the coalition of NGOs focused on the problems of migrants, refugees and displaced persons;

(i) **UNHCR consultation on resettlement** (June 1996, Geneva) at which ICMC shared its experience in assistance to refugees seeking third country resettlement;

(j) **United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)** (June 1996, Istanbul): ICMC as head of the NGO working group on refugee women held a special workshop on human displacement;

(k) **Annual meeting of UNICEF** (June 1997): ICMC focused on the issue of children in armed conflict;

(l) **Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Meeting on Security** (May 1997): ICMC participated in a delegation to present the NGO perspective on the security conditions for humanitarian workers.

Participation in the above United Nations conferences not only offered ICMC the opportunity to draw attention to the needs of migrants and refugees but also allowed for a better awareness of certain standards that NGOs need to adhere to in the provision of assistance. For example, preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women stirred the Commission to initiate small business training, micro-credit and job placement projects for refugee and displaced women.

In addition to the above conferences, ICMC attended the forty-fifth through forty-eighth UNHCR Executive Committee meetings, at which it promoted the mainstreaming of refugee women and children in UNHCR operations, refugee protection and the right to asylum, and third country resettlement opportunities for refugees. Furthermore, ICMC actively participated in deliberations during country-specific briefings organized by both UNHCR and the Department for Humanitarian Affairs.

5. International Chamber of Commerce

(General status, 1946)

The principal purpose of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) — the world business organization — is the promotion of international trade and investment, open markets for goods and services, the free flow of capital, and entrepreneurship and free enterprise. During the period covered by this report, new local chapters of ICC (national committees) were established in Bangladesh, China, Hungary, Lithuania and Peru, bringing the total number of its national committees to 65. In addition, local chambers of commerce and individual business enterprises in the following countries (where national committees have not yet been organized) became "direct members": Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and Viet Nam, thus further extending ICC's global reach, which now includes 135 countries.

ICC regularly attended sessions of the Council and many of its subsidiary bodies, such as the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation on Tax Matters, and the Committee on NGOs. Informally, it closely followed the work of the second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. It participated actively in the sessions of the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Materials, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. It maintained broad contacts with the United Nations Secretariat, notably with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNEP, UNCTAD and UNCITRAL.

Specific examples of ICC activities during 1994–1997 in support of the United Nations are set out below.

ICC responded quickly and positively to the call of the Secretary-General in his 1997 report to the General Assembly entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/95) for better consultations between the United Nations and the business community, in which he stated his intention to build upon initiatives already

taken by ICC to establish mechanisms for this purpose. To launch this process, ICC, represented by its Secretary-General, engaged in extensive discussions during the last quarter of 1997 with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to identify approaches for better means of consultation, sharing the experience and expertise of the business community, and building an appreciation on both sides of the mutual benefits of a more organized relationship. Preparations were made for a meeting held in early 1998 between senior United Nations officials, headed by the Secretary-General, and an ICC delegation of senior business people to further build mutual support for a closer working relationship and practical cooperation in specific areas, including projects with UNCTAD and UNDP.

The ICC Secretary-General was invited to be on a panel of eminent persons convened during the high-level segment of the Council's 1997 substantive session to discuss international capital flows, particularly to developing countries. ICC spoke on the contribution of foreign direct investment to development.

The ICC joined in working to assure a strong business presence at the 1997 special session to review the follow-up to UNCED. Two CEOs who attended as members of the ICC delegation addressed the plenary of the session.

ICC actively participated in the preparations for the World Summit for Social Development, attending and making oral statements in each of the three sessions of the Preparatory Committee, and was represented at Copenhagen by a high-level delegation headed by its President, who addressed the plenary. The focus of ICC's involvement was employment creation as an important means of combating poverty and facilitating social integration.

ICC provided valuable input to UNCITRAL's development of a model law on electronic commerce, which was endorsed and recommended to Member States by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session. It has also been actively involved in UNCITRAL's continuing work on digital signatures and authentication, an important aspect of international electronic commerce.

The ICC Secretary-General delivered the keynote speech to a session on the theme "Business perspectives on foreign direct investment and development" at UNCTAD's Global Investment Forum in October 1996. The Senior Adviser on International Trade and Investment of IBM Canada also addressed the Forum on behalf of ICC.

In October 1997, ICC initiated discussions with the Administrator of UNDP and its Private Sector Development Programme for a joint programme to enhance the capabilities of chambers of commerce in least developed countries in order to help build up their private sectors and support business enterprises.

ICC worked closely with the Secretariat and other major groups to organize the Day of the Workplace at the 1996 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the business and industry segment of the dialogue sessions of the 1997 session of the Commission, at which industry contributions to the implementation of Agenda 21 were discussed. It arranged for the participation of business people at both these events, for example, in 1996 from companies operating in South Africa and Papua New Guinea, and in 1997 for a panel of senior business representatives headed by the ICC Secretary-General.

During the period 1994–1996, ICC closely followed the work of the Council's Open-Ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with NGOs, regularly attending its sessions, making oral presentations and informally exchanging views with government representatives. It also made oral statements in 1996 and 1997 to the Subgroup on NGOs of the Open-Ended High-Level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System.

ICC's national committees were regularly kept informed of developments in the United Nations system of interest to business and industry, including decisions taken and resolutions adopted, through such means as reports of ICC delegations to United Nations and specialized agency meetings; ICC's quarterly journal, *Business World*, which frequently includes articles and commentary on United Nations system activities pertinent to the conduct of international business; and its *IGO Report*, published through its United States committee. The *IGO Report*, which appears at least six times a year, is devoted largely to developments in the United Nations and its specialized agencies of interest to the business community.

6. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)

(Special consultative status granted 1957)

The activities of ICJ in the four years 1994 to 1997 have continued to be directed towards: promoting the observance, respect for and implementation of human rights under the rule of law; activities relating to the violations of human rights and international standard-setting.

A great number of activities concerning the promotion and protection of human rights and the observance of the rule of law have taken place within the United Nations pursuant to the consultative status enjoyed by ICJ with the Economic and Social Council. This has included making reports and oral and written interventions, lobbying governmental delegates and members of United Nations bodies in support of proposals put forwards, and attending United Nations Committee meetings.

The subjects covered have included the World Summit for Social Development; the Fourth World Conference on Women; indigenous populations; principles for the protection of persons under any form of detention or imprisonment; enforced or involuntary disappearances; administrative detention; the draft declaration on the administration of justice; the elimination of racial discrimination; economic, social and cultural rights; human rights defenders; establishment of a permanent International Criminal Court; and other situations of human rights violations.

Some of the main activities are summarized below.

Establishment of a permanent international criminal court

The establishment of a permanent international criminal court has been a key objective of ICJ for many years, and a number of activities were undertaken to lobby support and mobilize public opinion in this respect.

In 1995, ICJ organized a round-table discussion at Geneva on international criminal prosecution, from the ad hoc former Yugoslavia Tribunal to the permanent international criminal court. ICJ has also participated actively in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court since 1995. A position paper was published in 1995. ICJ made statements at subsequent sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

World Summit for Social Development, March 1995

A position paper was produced in collaboration with the ICJ section in the Netherlands, NJCM, and was distributed together with a statement prepared for the Summit. It called for the establishment of an individual complaints procedure for nationals to send complaints to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995

ICJ submitted a statement urging the Conference to ensure that the Platform for Action strongly supports the rights of the girl child.

Indigenous populations

In 1994, ICJ visited representatives of the National Indigenous Council in the indigenous region of Cauca in Colombia, and sent a fact-finding mission to the Mexican State of Chiapas concerning the insurrection of indigenous people there.

Working Group on Drafting a Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

ICJ participated actively in this working group.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In 1995, ICJ held its triennial meeting at Bangalore, India, and produced the Bangalore Plan of Action. Oral intervention was made at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights , urging the Commission to give equal attention to the realization of these rights and provide support for a draft optional protocol to the International Convention. ICJ also submitted the Bangalore Plan of Action to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

ICJ held a seminar on economic, social and cultural rights at Bogota in May 1996. The Bogota report was submitted to the forty-eighth session of the Subcommission.

Rights of the Child

ICJ organized a seminar at Abidjan in March 1995 on the rights of the child. Resources persons included representatives of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF, the ILO, UNESCO, OAU and the media.

Enforced or involuntary disappearances

In June 1996, ICJ participated in an Amnesty International meeting of experts to discuss the draft convention on disappearances, which was submitted for the first time before the 1996 session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

Administration of justice/independence of the judiciary and protection of lawyers

The ICJ Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers (CIJL) submitted at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights and its subsequent sessions the preliminary findings of the CIJL annual report, *Attacks on Justice*.

ICJ made two oral interventions at the Subcommission's Working Group on the Administration of Justice (August 1996), one to support the draft "Basic principles and guidelines on the right to reparation for victims of gross violations of human rights and humanitarian law", prepared by Special Rapporteur Theo van Boven; and the other on a draft "International convention on the prevention and repression of forced disappearances", prepared by Louis Joinet.

In September 1996, ICJ organized a training course on administration of justice and human rights in the modernization process held in Peru. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence and Impartiality of Judges and the Independence of Lawyers attended the meeting.

At the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights, ICJ made an oral intervention to express concern regarding the law suit filed against the Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers.

In April 1997, CIJL participated actively in the session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at Vienna.

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

ICJ participated actively in this Working Group and submitted in September 1996, its position paper, which examines the mandate of the Working Group and argues that it is essential for the Working Group to adhere to its mandate, under which arbitrary detention includes administrative detention as well as judicial detention. Oral interventions were made at the subsequent meetings of the Working Group.

Gross and systematic violations of human rights

A report on Nigeria was submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission.

A report on Kashmir and the 1996 draft chapter on India (for the CIJL publication of *Attacks on Justice*) were presented at the Working Group of the Human Rights Committee in July 1997.

On many occasions, ICJ made oral and written interventions of situations with which it has been concerned, particularly at the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission (6 to 10 interventions per session).

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia

ICJ provided five experts to work at the newly established UNHCHR office at Bogota.

Application of International Human Rights Norms at the Domestic Level

Seminars and training courses directed at judges, prosecutors and lawyers were organized at Maputo (1996); Bishkek (1996); Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China (1997); Sao Paulo (1997); and Rabat (1997).

Information

ICJ publishes an annual *ICJ Review* (in English, French and Spanish), an annual *CIJL Yearbook* in English, an annual report entitled *Attacks on Justice: The Harassment and Persecution of Judges and Lawyers* in English, and a monthly report of the Secretary-General in English.

These contain as a regular feature reports of meetings of the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission, the Human Rights Committee and other United Nations bodies. Important United Nations documents are reproduced in full or in summary in the category "Basic texts" of the *ICJ Review* or as appendices to the *CIJL Yearbook*.

7. International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

(General consultative status granted 1950)

ICFTU organizes free and democratic national trade union centres. It works for human and trade union rights, full employment, social justice, equality of opportunity, the elimination of discrimination based on race, religion, sex or origin, and of forced and child labour.

Membership: at the end of 1997, ICFTU had a total membership of 124,821,212 members, in 141 countries and 206 affiliated organizations, of which 60 per cent are in developing countries.

During the period under review, ICFTU has consistently attended the meetings of (a) the Council and

(b) its subsidiary bodies. It also participated in and contributed to (c) world conferences which marked the review period and (d) other United Nations meetings. ICFTU has had an extremely active four years, to which this summary report can scarcely do justice.

Economic and Social Council

Oral statements were made in 1994 on the report of the Commission on Transnational Corporations and on the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Oral statements were made in 1995 on items concerning trade and development and non-governmental organizations. Also, two written statements were submitted — on the development of Africa (E/1995/NGO/7) and on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development (E/1995/NGO/4). The ICFTU representative made oral statements in 1996 on trade and development, social development questions, sustainable development and on non-governmental organizations. ICFTU was represented at Geneva in 1997.

ECOSOC Committee on NGOs

The ICFTU representative regularly attended Committee meetings, as well as meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with NGOs.

ICFTU representatives attended annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva from 1994 through 1997, and made statements on the Occupied Arab territories; South Africa; the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; the rights of the child; migrant workers; violence against women; the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment; and human rights violations in several countries.

In the follow-up process to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) ICFTU, at the Commission on Sustainable Development has concentrated on the implementation of chapter 29 of Agenda 21. ICFTU made oral statements in 1994 on workplace eco-auditing. Three ICFTU interventions in 1995 focused on worker and trade union involvement, under cross-sectoral issues; production and consumption patterns; and public participation. The contributions made in these sessions led to formal presentations, including case studies, by trade union representatives at the subsequent meetings of the Commission. At the 1996 session, ICFTU, together with the International Chamber of Commerce, organized a special event entitled "Day of the workplace" (30 April), featuring cases of concrete progress toward sustainable development in the workplace. The document was produced in cooperation with the Division for Sustainable Development. ICFTU also organized a discussion on the role of education and training in sustainable development. Nine trade union leaders from different regions took part in the dialogue session between trade unions and governments on 14 April 1997.

The ICFTU General Secretary addressed the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (New York, 23–27 June 1997).

At the 1994 meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development, ICFTU made an oral statement on the draft programme of action. At the Conference, ICFTU submitted a statement which stressed the need for protection of employment rights of women and trade union rights of migrant workers.

ICFTU has been putting great emphasis on the World Summit for Social Development, its preparation and follow-up. At the first substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development in 1994, the ICFTU representative made an oral statement and distributed a position paper. The ICFTU was represented at the second session by a team of trade unionists from all continents. Oral statements were made by the General Secretary of the ICFTU Inter-American Regional Organization and by the Chairman of the ILO Workers' Group. As a side event, a round table on the theme "Justice is productive" was conducted by ICFTU. At the 1995 session of the Preparatory Committee, ICFTU was again represented by a high-level team from all regions. Oral statements were made by leading trade unionists. The World Summit for Social Development was attended by an ICFTU team of high-level trade unionists from different regions. A number of leaders of ICFTU affiliates were members of governmental delegations. The ICFTU General Secretary addressed the plenary session, and a written statement was circulated. On the eve of the Summit, ICFTU and its Danish affiliate, the Danish Confederation of Trade Unions, held a conference on the theme "Jobs, justice and equality" to highlight trade union concerns, with the participation of United Nations officials, government representatives and NGOs. After the Summit, ICFTU produced a users' guide to the Summit for its affiliates, highlighting the 10 commitments of the Copenhagen Declaration, which confirm the need to respect international core labour standards. At the 1995 meeting of the Commission for Social Development, the ICFTU representative made an oral statement on the follow-up to the Summit. At Brussels in 1996, ICFTU, UNDP and the ILO held a joint seminar to assess the progress to meet the Summit's objectives and to

discuss measures needed to boost the follow-up. At the special session of the Commission for Social Development in 1996, the ICFTU representative made oral statements on strategies and actions for the eradication of poverty and on the future role of the Commission. At the 1997 session of the Commission for Social Development, the ICFTU General Secretary was a member of a panel of experts on the priority theme "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods". On the eve of the session, ICFTU and the International Council on Social Welfare, in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, organized an NGO forum on the subject.

At the 1994 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, oral statements were made on the theme of equal pay for work of equal value and on the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women. During the session preparing for the Beijing Conference, ICFTU made an oral statement on the draft platform for action. At the Fourth World Conference on Women, ICFTU was represented by a team of leading trade union women from all regions. The Chairperson of the ICFTU Women's Committee addressed the plenary session, and a statement was circulated to government delegations. ICFTU organized a trade union women's caucus every day during the Conference. An ICFTU team also participated actively in the NGO Forum. Prior to the Conference, ICFTU and its affiliates participated in a number of preparatory regional meetings. At the 1996 meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women, the ICFTU representative attended the Beijing follow-up discussion and an ICFTU representative participated in a panel on family responsibilities. At the 1997 meeting of the Commission, the ICFTU representative made an oral statement on the follow-up to the Beijing Conference, and an ICFTU representative was a member of the panel on women and the economy.

The 1996 meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was attended by ICFTU representatives. A written position paper was distributed. They also took part in a trade union panel organized as a side event by the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation. At Habitat II, ICFTU and its affiliated organizations participated in the Partners' Hearing Committee II. ICFTU addressed the Conference and, in cooperation with the International Federation of Building and Woodworkers, organized a trade union forum.

ICFTU participated in the preparations by FAO for the World Food Summit, and took part in and delivered a statement to the Summit.

ICFTU participated in the preparations of UNESCO for the Fifth International Conference on Adult Education (Hamburg, 14–18 July 1997). Its representatives participated in the workshops and plenary of the Conference. Affiliated organizations were also represented in governmental delegations.

At a UNDP international conference on governance for sustainable growth and equity in New York, in July 1997, oral statements were made by the General Secretary of the ICFTU affiliate Swaziland Federation of Trade Unions, who participated on the invitation of UNDP.

During the period under review, the ICFTU representative followed the proceedings of the General Assembly mainly the Second and Third Committees. She attended the sessions thirteenth through seventeenth of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, where she participated in consultations with members of the Committee. ICFTU representatives also attended the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A written statement on the report on Paraguay was submitted to the Committee session at Geneva, in 1996 (E/C.12/1996/NGO/3).

The ICFTU regional organizations attended regular sessions of the regional commissions.

Meetings of UNEP and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements were attended, when possible.

Further to the cooperation with UNDP mentioned above, UNDP contributed to and participated in a seminar with trade union centres in Guinea in September 1997, and regularly took part in ICFTU-organized conferences on the social dimension of structural adjustment in Africa.

ICFTU was consulted by the UNCTAD secretariat over the preparation of the 1995 *World Investment Report* on the theme "TNCs, employment and the workplace". It took part in UNCTAD meetings in an expert capacity, and participated in annual consultations with trade unions and in the UNCTAD IX Conference in 1996 in South Africa, as well as in Trade and Development Board meetings.

The ILO received, as in the past, greatest attention and cooperation from ICFTU, which together with its affiliates, continued to play a leading role in this tripartite agency. ICFTU has been putting particular emphasis on employment issues and on the universal application of international core labour standards. Details are available on request.

UNIDO Industrial Board and FAO Council meetings were regularly attended. Statements were made at the conferences of those organizations. The Council and

Conference of IMO as well as technical meetings were attended by ICFTU. Apart from the adult education conference mentioned, ICFTU kept in touch with developments at UNESCO. Contacts with WHO were maintained in the area of health and safety. An ICFTU specialist participated in the drafting of a safety guide for occupational radiation protection at IAEA.

ICFTU maintained close contacts with officials of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs and the Centre for Human Rights. Activities relevant to the United Nations are mentioned above under the different items.

8. International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO)

(General consultative status granted 1948)

Aims

The aim of the International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO), in line with its constitution, is to work for the welfare of the family and to link up all organizations throughout the world sharing this aim.

In this perspective and in conformity with article 4 of the Constitution, the IUFO's purpose is:

(a) To promote and encourage the coordination of all private and public organizations sharing the aims of the Union by grouping them together at all levels, international, regional and national in order to pool the problems they are faced with and to seek appropriate solutions;

(b) To strengthen the bonds of solidarity between families worldwide and to make them realize their common responsibility for the welfare, justice and peace of the world;

(c) To represent the interest of families and to convey their needs and aspirations to the international institutions, so underlining the importance of the family to human society;

(d) To submit to national institutions the recommendations of the Union;

(e) To carry out or to encourage all studies or research likely to better the conditions of families in society and contribute to their self-promotion and their well-being.

Means of action

To this effect and in order to fulfil these objectives it falls within the scope of the Union's duties to:

(a) Collect the social data necessary to follow up the purpose defined above by means of an information and documentation centre destined to ensure liaison between organizations of existing documentation and to rearrange the necessary, supplementary information;

(b) Ensure on a worldwide or regional plane the diffusion and the exchange of the said information both by publications and the organizing of international meetings, in fact by all appropriate means to satisfy the demands presented by social and family institutions;

(c) Organize international meetings on a world or regional basis to make possible the study of family problems, the exchange of experiences, and the drafting of recommendations;

(d) Organize conferences and create commissions, committees and study groups;

(e) Encourage, at the request of national or international bodies, the promotion of the family, especially by the organization of training courses, the setting up of schemes or experiments, social development or the collecting of the necessary funds and assembling of the necessary staff.

Members

To affiliate to IUFO, there are three conditions:

(a) To be in the service of families;

(b) To accept the Union's constitution and by-laws;

(c) To pay annual fees.

The Union gathers more than 300 governmental and non-governmental members from about 60 different countries. IUFO maintains close connections with more than 100 countries that participate in its activities.

Governing bodies

In order to accomplish its mission and its activities, the Union has a three-governing structure:

(a) The General Assembly, made up of two delegates from each member, meets every four years;

(b) The General Council, elected by the General Assembly, meets once a year;

(c) The Executive Committee, elected by the General Council, meets three times a year.

Regions

To meet the cultural diversity and different forms of family living, IUFO favoured the creation of regions that are the gathering of its members in a specific region or according to a certain culture. Each IUFO region has a secretariat or a logistic support. Considering that the mission of IUFO is, in fact, to develop the solidarity between world families and underline their complementarities rather than their differences, the following regions were set up:

(a) Arab Family Organization (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya);

(b) Asia and Pacific Union of Family Organizations (Macau);

(c) European Region (Germany);

(d) Latin American Region (Brazil);

(e) North America Region (Canada);

(f) Pan-African Family Organization (Morocco).

Commissions

In order to make a comprehensive study of family problems, IUFO has technical commissions and study groups. They usually convene annually at a plenary session or at least once every two years. The General Council appoints the Chairpersons and approve the functioning of the commissions.

The commissions are: Commission on Health; Commission on Education; Commission on Family Rights; Commission on Women Conditions; Commission on Rural Families; Commission on Marriage and Interpersonal Relations; Commission on Housing and Environment.

Participation at the international level and in the work of the United Nations system

The Union is on the special list of the International Labour Organization (ILO), maintains official relationships with the World Health Organization (WHO), in operational relations with UNESCO, consultative status with FAO, signed a collaboration protocol with UNICEF, and has official representation at UNFPA. The Union has also an authorized representative at the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat.

At the regional level, the Union maintains official representation with the following regional commissions: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Europe. The Union also maintains permanent contacts with: the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States, the Organization of African Unity, the Organization of American States.

The Union has permanent representatives at Geneva, New York, Vienna, Cairo, Paris, Rome, Strasbourg and Addis Ababa.

The Union is a member of the NGO family committees in Paris, New York and Vienna.

Contribution to United Nations conferences in the previous decade

IUFO was mobilized to prepare, participate and publish documents and accounts of engagements relating to the themes of these major events. The family is, in fact, involved when it is a matter of population, development and its humanization, women's status and housing. In each participation, the Union's delegations reaffirmed soundly that family is the educative and evolving framework of people's humanity.

In every participation, IUFO expresses its official commitment to defending the rights of families, women, the human being and children, including young girls, democratic values, the diversity of family life forms, and improving living conditions for families, women and children. IUFO delegations participated in the following events:

(a) International Conference on Population and Development;

(b) World Summit for Social Development;

(c) Fourth World Conference on Women;

(d) United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II);

(e) Food World Summit;

(f) World Youth Forum;

(g) Nineteenth special session of the General Assembly.

International Year of the Family

The Union participated actively of all preparatory work for the commemoration of the International Year of the Family, together with the United Nations and the IYF secretariat at Vienna.

The Union also participated in a special session, held in Paris on 3 February 1994, that dealt mainly with the official ceremony chaired by the President of the French

Republic to proclaim the IUFO Declaration on Family Rights, in the presence of heads of State of IUFO member countries, General Council members, diplomatic representations as well as family militants. The Union collaborates closely with the Family Unit at United Nations Headquarters.

Conferences

The Union also organized or sponsored the following conferences:

(a) The Lisbon Recommendations for the Housing of the Elder Persons, Lisbon, 8 July 1994;

(b) The International Year of the Family, Paris, 14 December 1994;

(c) Who Pays? Changing Patterns of Employment/ Unemployment and the Implications for Couples and Families, Siofok, Hungary, 21–24 May 1995;

(d) The Family towards the Third Millennium: For a Culture of Peace and Development, Macau, China, 18–20 September 1995;

(e) The Family, the Housing and its Environment, Lille, France, 28 and 29 September 1995;

(f) Values and Families: Intergenerational, Societal and Professional Perspectives, Fribourg, Switzerland, 21–24 June 1996;

(g) World Pre-Forum on Youth: Youth and Communication, Montreal, 11–13 September 1996;

(h) Study Days on Demography and Housing, Munich, 26 September 1996;

(i) International Migrations and Ethnical Minorities, Lisbon, 25–27 October 1996;

(j) Family Policies and Plans of Action, Quebec, 3 and 4 December 1996;

(k) World Congress on Family Law and the Rights of Children and Youths, San Francisco, 3–7 June 1997;

(l) Rural Families and Youth Exodus, Tunis, 15–17 June 1997.

On 3 and 4 December 1997, IUFO accomplished its twelfth General Assembly with the commemoration of its fiftieth anniversary. On this occasion, the General Council elected the new Board of Directors. Deisi Noeli Weber Kusztra, a Brazilian doctor, was elected IUFO President.

9. International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights

(Special status granted in 1993)

Introduction

The International Centre for the Legal Protection of Human Rights (INTERIGHTS) is an international human rights organization, established in 1982, which aims to promote the effective use of international human rights law to protect rights and freedoms worldwide. It provides support for lawyers, judges, human rights organizations and others in addressing human rights problems through the law. It focuses primarily on the developing world, with active programmes in Africa, Central Europe, the Commonwealth Caribbean and South Asia, giving special attention to liberty and security of the person, the right to equal treatment without discrimination and free expression. INTERIGHTS publishes a quarterly *Bulletin* on developments in human rights law and the *Commonwealth Human Rights Law Digest*, both distributed worldwide. INTERIGHTS is a registered charity, dependent on grants and donations, and holds consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights and the Council of Europe. It is also authorized to submit complaints under the new collective complaints mechanism of the European Social Charter.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

In the period under review, INTERIGHTS has filed submitted information on alleged violations of human rights to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on Summary and Arbitrary Executions, the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

INTERIGHTS has participated in the Coalition of NGOs for an International Criminal Court, and attended Preparatory Committee meetings for the international criminal court in 1997.

Other relevant activities

INTERIGHTS has:

(a) Submitted a number of complaints to the Human Rights Committee, and has assisted others in doing so;

(b) Provided advice to lawyers, judges and NGOs on the effective invocation of United Nations human rights standards in many cases worldwide at domestic and regional levels, and on the techniques of utilizing international mechanisms in specific cases;

(c) Advised on the conformity of national legislation with international human rights norms in a number of different countries.

INTERIGHTS staff organized and participated in many seminars, workshops and conferences on the practical application of international human rights law, including:

(a) Organizing a judicial colloquium at Georgetown, Guyana, in 1996, jointly with the Commonwealth secretariat, on the domestic implementation of international human rights norms, particularly those of the United Nations;

(b) Organizing a workshop for a London-based panel representing death row prisoners in the Caribbean on relevant petition mechanisms, including the Human Rights Committee, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on Torture, the 1503 Procedure, in 1997;

(c) Co-hosting with UNHCR a workshop on remedies available to asylum seekers and aliens in Hungary in 1996;

(d) Participating in a meeting reviewing the role of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, organized by the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development in 1997;

(e) Participating in a conference on United Nations treaty bodies at Cambridge, United Kingdom, in 1997.

INTERIGHTS publication activities were as follows:

(a) Quarterly publication of INTERIGHTS' *Bulletin*, containing summaries of all decisions of United Nations juridical bodies, articles about topics relating to the practical use of international human rights law, including United Nations instruments, information about recent developments (including new United Nations instruments, general comments etc.) and additional information, such as ratification charts. Parts of the *Bulletin* are translated into Hungarian, Bulgarian, Sinhala and Tamil;

(b) A new periodical, the *Commonwealth Human Rights Law Digest*, is issued three times a year, carrying summaries of human rights related decisions of senior Commonwealth national courts, especially those referring to United Nations or regional human rights standards;

(c) Publication with the Commonwealth secretariat of *Developing Human Rights Jurisprudence, vol. 6*, containing papers from a judicial colloquium held at Bloemfontein, South Africa, in 1993;

(d) A new series has been initiated of *Free Expression Case Summaries*, including decisions of national, regional and international bodies, including those of the United Nations, relating to free expression;

(e) Establishment of a Web site carrying, *inter alia*, summaries of United Nations decisions on human rights (as in the *Bulletin*);

(f) Publication of *Reading Human Rights: an Annotated Guide to a Human Rights Library*, containing selected literature on human rights standards, including many on relevant United Nations standards.

10. World Conference on Religion and Peace

(General consultative status granted 1971)

Aims and purposes

WCRP is solely dedicated to promoting cooperation among the world's religions for peace in 10 programme areas which closely reflect the aims of the United Nations Charter and complement the United Nations organizational agenda: religious tolerance, conflict transformation, disarmament, peace education, sustainable development, human rights, children and youth, displaced persons, environment and ecology, and women.

WCRP has international offices in New York, Geneva, Tokyo, Sarajevo and Bangkok, 35 national chapters, and almost 10,000 institutional and individual members in 115 countries. Since 1993, two new regional offices have been established at Bangkok and at Sarajevo, and five new national chapters constituted in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Israel, Sierra Leone and Sweden. Membership has grown with the addition of scores of national and international religious organizations and an increase in individual memberships, especially in the Balkans, in South-East Asia, and in many African States whose societies are marked by a high degree of religious pluralism.

Due to an increase in membership and funding by religious institutions and sympathetic foundations, WCRP's programmatic budgets have increased fourfold since 1993, and the organization has also been able to establish six international standing commissions on religion and the child, religion and conflict resolution, religion and development, religion and disarmament and security, religion and human

rights, and religion and peace education. By design, a number of members of United Nations agencies are invited to serve on the advisory councils for these standing commissions.

WCRP is a founding member of the NGO Committee for Freedom of Religion or Belief and the NGO Committee on Disarmament, and an active participant in the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. In addition, a number of other NGOs work in close cooperation with WCRP, many of which enjoy consultative status with the Council, including: Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, Conference of European Churches, Franciscans International, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, International Association for Religious Freedom, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Lutheran World Federation, Muslim World League, Pax Christi International, Pax Romana, the Temple of Understanding, Wainwright House, and World Muslim Congress.

Participation in the work of the Council and cooperation with United Nations programmes bodies and agencies

Accredited with general consultative status with the Council and full consultative status with UNESCO and UNICEF, since its founding in 1970 WCRP has had a special relationship with the United Nations system. WCRP references much of its own project agenda to United Nations agenda, and has actively participated in many United Nations activities during the years 1994–1997, as described below.

Economic and Social Council: in 1995, WCRP's accreditation with the Council was upgraded to general status. WCRP has full-time representatives at United Nations centres in New York, Geneva and Vienna, and full-time representation with all five regional commissions. UNICEF: WCRP organized a series of international multireligious consultations reflected in the General Assembly's study on the impact of armed conflict on children (A/51/306). The WCRP statement on the issue was included verbatim in A/51/306/Add.1, annex VII of the study. WCRP later developed and distributed worldwide action-oriented materials related to the study. WCRP developed two action-oriented pamphlets and one video for religious communities worldwide on oral rehydration therapy. WCRP drafted a major document for use by religious communities in the promotion of universal implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNESCO: in 1996, WCRP's accreditation with UNESCO was reclassified to full consultative relations. WCRP has a full-time representative with the organization, and coordinates religious participation in UNESCO's "Culture of peace" programme, including the sponsorship of an international seminar at Barcelona (12–18 December 1994), and the drafting of a declaration on the role of religion in the promotion of a culture of peace. UNDP: WCRP is cooperating with UNDP as a partner organization in implementing poverty eradication programmes during the International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997–2006), particularly in promoting multireligious cooperation in the mobilization of the strategic assets of religions for addressing poverty. UNEP: as a follow-up to UNCED, WCRP organized Global Forum 94 at Manchester, United Kingdom (23 June–3 July 1994), on the theme "The spiritual, educational and political dimensions of the task of building urban peace and sustainable development: global problems, global ethics and global responsibility". WCRP also re-edited and republished a resource for use by religious communities worldwide in educational and advocacy initiatives for the environment, first published in part by UNEP's environmental sabbath programme. United Nations Secretariat: WCRP sponsored the programmatic participation of religiously affiliated youth organizations in the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System (Vienna, 24–29 November 1996). As follow-up, WCRP is implementing a plan for the establishment of an international multireligious association of religiously affiliated youth organizations, committed to the United Nations agenda. World Summit for Social Development: WCRP coordinated the preparation, programmatic participation and follow-up response of major international religiously affiliated development agencies for the Summit, including the issuing of a multireligious declaration and the establishment of an international interreligious development action committee. Habitat II: WCRP coordinated the participation of major religious organizations in the Conference and the preceding three preparatory committee meetings. ICPD: WCRP facilitated the participation of religiously affiliated agencies in the preparation, programmatic participation and follow-up response to ICPD, including the issuing of a multireligious declaration. Second Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: WCRP sponsored the programmatic participation of religious communities (Berlin, March/April 1995). Fourth World Conference on Women: WCRP sponsored the programmatic participation of religious communities in the Conference. As a follow-up to the Conference, WCRP is implementing a plan for the establishment and funding of an international multireligious association of religiously affiliated women's associations, committed to the United Nations agenda.

Other relevant activities

In the area of conflict transformation, WCRP cooperated with United Nations initiatives to facilitate the contributions by civil society to the building of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Sierra Leone by assisting local religious communities in establishing countrywide interreligious councils equipped to mobilize multireligious actions on behalf of major countrywide concerns.

In 1994, WCRP published "The Mohonk criteria for humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies", drafted by a task force of experts from major relief agencies, the United Nations system, and experts in humanitarian assistance issues, including the International Court of Justice, UNICEF, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNHCR, the Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance, UNIFEM, the Office of Legal Counsel and the Department of Political Affairs.

In response to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1996/85 and a note by the Secretary-General (A/51/456), WCRP convened representative groups of religiously affiliated child-care experts in a series of international preparatory meetings, and organized the programmatic participation of religiously affiliated child-care agencies at the World Congress Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Stockholm, 27–31 August 1996). WCRP's statement was adopted by the Congress as part of its follow-up programme of action.

In addition to the above, WCRP has sponsored numerous other initiatives, including: UNICEF (yearly programmes in commemoration of the Day of the African Child); UNESCO (global ethic programme at United Nations Headquarters, 26 May 1994; International Year of Tolerance programme in New York, 9 January 1995; nominated the 1996 recipient of the UNESCO Prize for Peace Education, Ms. Chiara Lubich, Honorary President of WCRP); UNHCR (humanitarian aid to former Yugoslavia, 1993–1997); UNDP (humanitarian aid to Sierra Leone, 1995–1997; coordinated the worldwide involvement of religious communities in micro-credit initiatives, 1995–1997); Centre for Human Rights (developed a pilot project to mobilize religious communities in Sierra Leone as vehicles of human rights education; monitored compliance to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief); CONGO (participated actively in the open-ended discussions on the status of NGOs with the Council, 1995–1997); Department of Public Information (monetary contribution to the new DPI/NGO resource centre; contributed speakers to DPI/NGO annual conference, 10–12 September 1997; sponsored a symposium at United Nations Headquarters on 17 November 1994 on the United Nations agenda and multireligious cooperation; sponsored the broad participation of high ranking representatives from many sectors of the United Nations system and from the diplomatic community to address a world assembly of 1,000 senior religious leaders in Italy, November 1994, on substantive issues related to United Nations agenda).